a splendid confirmation of what M. Lisfranc, in 1835, advanced in favour of lithotrity. "That as lithotrity became more popular, patients, who were deterred from fear of lithotomy, would consult the surgeon at an earlier period of the disease, and that the number of large calculi would necessarily diminish, increasing thus the chances of lithotrity being more generally applied."

It were an endless task to notice all the ridiculous passages in Dr. Willis's book; but the following are so rich that I cannot pass them over in silence. Thus, p. 117, "Lithotrity is not only a dangerous operation in itself; it very generally puts the sufferer beyond the pale of relief by other immediate means, particularly (!) lithotomy; of this we have ample assurance in the cases that presented themselves in the practice of M. Souberbielle." I would simply beg to refer your readers to M. Souberbielle's memoirs, and to the report made on them by M. Sanson, one of the greatest opponents to lithotrity. He will there find it stated, in plain letters, that out of twelve patients, operated on by M. Souberbielle, after attempts had been made to destroy the calculi by lithotrity, *ten recovered!* Also, p. 123, "Lithotrity is admissible where it is certain that the stone can at one sitting be seized and reduced to fragments of sufficient minuteness to pass by the urethra. No second, certainly no third operation, ought ever to be contemplated. If the patient, who has had lithotrity performed upon him, is not relieved at once, he is in imminent danger of losing his life!!" And this in italics, too, from fear of misapprehension! The very absurdity of the thing is too evident to require comment.

It is truly lamentable to witness the extent to which some men allow themselves to be carried by their insufferable self-esteem. Dr. Willis, ignorant, as every line in his chapter on lithotrity proves, of every thing connected with lithotrity, never having performed it, never, as is probable, having even seen it performed, has taken upon himself to decide on its merits, and to stamp with his reprobation, forsooth, an operation, the value of which has been admitted by surgeons of the greatest eminence, and which becomes daily greater. Not content, however, with thus dogmatically laying down the law, he has had the hardihood (p. 109) to charge men, honoured in their own country, and respected by their countrymen for their talents and learning, with "mendacity and pretence." If our indignation at this slander were not somewhat modified by the ludicrousness of such a charge coming from such a quarter, we would venture to read Dr. Willis a lesson that he would not easily forget. But "nescit vox missa reverti." It stands as a record of what ignorance and pretence can produce.

I had wished, also, to offer a few remarks on Dr. Willis's chapters on lithotomy and lithotrity; but as I find that my letter is already much longer than I had intended, I must reserve them for some future period.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

W. C.

Paris, May, 1842.

IDENTITY
OF
SMALL-POX AND COW-POCK.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

Gentlemen,—Having, within the last few days past, received from Professor Heim, a copy of his paper "Der Versuch Menschenpockenstoff auf Kühe zur Erzeugung der Vaccine zur übertragen, *gelung zuerst* auf *Deutschen Boden* schon im Jahre, 1801," which he is desirous I should make known in England, and which I doubt not will prove interesting to your readers, I take the earliest opportunity of forwarding it to you for that purpose. At the same time I beg leave to remark, that it was at my suggestion and request that Dr. Heim sought for some of the materials of this historical notice.

Soon after I first had the honour and advantage of corresponding with this able and indefatigable author —about two years ago—I intimated to him the great desire I had to obtain further information, and more explicit details, of Gassner's experiments in variolating the cow, for which I had already sought in vain both here and in Germany. I thought there was some error in the only statement of Gassner's experiments which I could procure, in the "Saltzburgh Medical Journal," as regarded the *numbers* said to have been successfully variolated. In No. 67 of that journal it is stated, "That Gassner had inoculated several cows with small-pox matter, and that *eleven* had got cow-pox." Knowing the difficulty I had encountered in my experiments, I felt anxious to ascertain the correctness of this statement, and, if correct, to learn the cause of such inconceivable success.

With his characteristic energy and zeal, Dr. Heim has succeeded in furnishing us with very satisfactory intelligence relative to this, the first successful variolation of the cow. The publication of the correction of that statement of Dr. Gassner's experiment, by so careful and discreet a hand, will assuredly rescue it from that doubt and uncertainty in which it had so long and so undeservedly lain.

In conclusion, allow me to add that I rejoice to find that Dr. Gassner lived long enough to have the statement of his experiments rectified, and their results confirmed. "*Palmam qui meruit, ferat.*"

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours very faithfully,

Robert Ceely.

Aylesbury, May 17, 1842.

Abstract of Professor Heim's Paper.

The first notice of Dr. Gassner's experiments is to be found in No. 67 of the "Salzburgher Medic. Zeitg., 1807, in the following terms:—

"*Günzburg.*—Dr. Gassner has inoculated several cows with small-pox lymph, and eleven of the cows have taken the cow-pock. With the matter thus obtained, four children of a curate were vaccinated, and very fine cow-pock ensued." In the year 1807, an inquiry was held by order of the Minister of the Interior on the announcement just alluded to. Dr. Gassner himself was examined, and declared that, in May, 1801, he had made the experiments mentioned. No

effect was produced on ten cows; the eleventh he inoculated with the most perfect success. He described the progress of the disease as follows :—On the second, third, and fourth days, nothing was observed in the points where the matter had been introduced; on the fifth day, however, a small red point formed over each; on the sixth, a small transparent vesicle; on the seventh, the vesicle was converted into a bulla *(blase)*, which was surrounded with a reddish circle on the eighth and ninth days; on the tenth day, the whole of the bulla was of a bluish pearl colour, and the lymph was, on this day, taken from it. On the eleventh, the udder was swollen, febrile symptoms set in and continued to the twelfth, when the tumefaction of the udder abated; the pustule was now of a whitish colour. On the thirteenth, the animal began to eat, and there was a depression in the middle of the pustule, which turned into a yellow crust on the fourteenth. From the fifteenth to the sixteenth, the crust became brown, then darker, and remained on to the twenty-eighth day.

Dr. Gassner vaccinated with the lymph several children in the rectory-house at Riedheim, and from them, seventeen others at Schönenberg. The appearances of the pock were perfect.

These circumstances were examined into by the commission of inquiry, who came to the conclusion that the facts averred by Dr. Gassner were a pure fiction.

On the other hand, Professor Heim inquired minutely into all the circumstances of the case, and says he is convinced of the variolation of the cow, and of the transmission from her of a disease similar to vaccinia.

In addition to the evidence collected from the surviving children of the curate, vaccinated by Dr. Gassner, of a contemporary witness, the schoolmaster Nübling, Professor Heim cites a letter addressed by Dr. Gassner to Dr. V. Ehrhart, and published in his "Sammlung von Beobactungen, I. B 1. H Nürnberg, 1803, s. 94." The following is an extract from this letter:—"I have endeavoured to ascertain by experiment the nature of the vaccine lymph. The report that I have inoculated several cows with small-pox is true; the result on the eleventh cow was perfect, and fully bore out the ideas which I had formed from analogy; I vaccinated with the lymph obtained from this cow the four children of a curate at Riedheim, and a beautiful cow-pock was produced. The matter with which I succeeded in producing the disease in the cow was taken from a child labouring under malignant small-pox at Zügen." The letter bears date, Günzberg, April 26, 1802.

UTERINE HYDATIDS SIMULATING PREGNANCY.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—I have now been practising midwifery for nearly half a century, and never having met with a similar case to the one I now send you, perhaps you will deem it worthy a place in your Journal.

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS POPE, SURGEON.

Cleobury Mortimer, Salop,
May 7, 1842.

On Thursday evening, the 21st ult., Jane, the wife of William Perkins, stone-mason, of this town, aged about 35, and mother of six children now living, with difficulty came to my house for advice. On inquiry, I found that in December last she thought herself pregnant, as her usual time of menstruating had just passed by; on the 14th of January last, severe uterine hæmorrhage took place, which continued uninterruptedly, attended with uterine pain and gradual enlargement of the hypogastric region, up to the time she came to me. She was greatly emaciated; pulse quick and weak; with thirst and anorexia. I agreed with her as to the fact of pregnancy; told her that I thought the placenta was near the cervix uteri, and that she ought to have had assistance earlier, and that nothing but the removal of the contents of the uterus would give her the least chance of recovery; I also blamed her for not applying sooner. She said that her husband had been out of work during the greater part of the winter, and that she had not the means of properly supporting her family. I desired her to go home, to confine herself to bed; ordered her diet and medicine suitable for hæmorrhage, and promised to see her in the morning.

On Friday morning she thought herself better; however, I examined the state of the uterus, per vaginam, and found the os uteri only sufficiently dilated to admit a finger, but with some force, I introduced the middle finger also, and dilated them as much as I could for two or three minutes. I saw her three or four times during the day; she had little loss of blood, and something like labour pains at night, when I examined again, and found things in the same state. I ordered her husband to call me if she got worse during the night.

On Saturday morning I found she had passed a restless night, with considerable labour pains, and was much reduced in strength, with a scarcely perceptible pulse, though no hæmorrhage had ensued. On examination, there was no trace of os or cervix uteri, but the whole uterus seemed quite patulous with something of a peculiar and soft feel; no fœtus or placenta could be discovered; I grasped a handful of something, and brought away what proved to be hydatids, varying in size from a pin's head to that of a hen's egg, and of an amber colour; I emptied the uterus of at least five or six quarts of these hydatids, which adhered to every part of the uterus, and also to each other. At their point of union with the uterus there appeared to be a net-work with a thin and soft substance, similar to linen, forming the threads of the net. The uterus appeared to be very thin, and was very sensitive. After the lapse of thirty or forty minutes, I examined and found the uterus much contracted, the cervix formed, and the os tincæ collapsed. I gave the patient an opiate, which procured sleep, but she gradually sank, and died early on Monday morning. I did all I could to obtain an examination of the body, but in vain. Much may be said on this interesting subject. Had the scanty and impoverished diet of the patient anything to do with the production of the hydatids? From her sallow and jaundiced appearance, with the clay, black, and green-coloured stools, and constantly bitter taste in the mouth for some months, is it not probable that they also existed in the liver?